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Daniel Pensak
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Thomas Ferns
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

RECEIVED

JUN 01 1999

DOE-RL/DIS

Re: Hanford Remedial Action EIS and Land Use Plan

Dear Mr. Ferns,

Wild Salmon. Natural Habitat. Free-flowing River. My grandparents were familiar with these things, and as in the distant future I want my kids to know these things too. The undeveloped Hanford lands are an ecological treasure that belongs to all of us, and I believe they should remain undeveloped. Please support the DOE Preferred Alternative to preserve the Wahluke Slope and the rest of the Hanford Reach. Please ban mining and grazing on the Nuclear reservation's undeveloped lands, since these activities are not compatible with preserving the ecological integrity of this unique site. And please designate all of the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a National Wildlife Refuge in a separate Record of Decision, so that the protection of these lands will no longer hang in the balance. If we lose the Hanford undeveloped lands, they can never be recovered.

I have recently been reminded about the foresight of some of the people in our government to set aside natural areas for our future. I was hiking through Olympic National Park with a 30-year veteran salmon biologist, and I learned that scientists use these undeveloped lands as a model for salmon restoration. This brought home the fact that the ecological knowledge bank stored in wild lands is irreplaceable. Like the old-growth rainforests, the undeveloped lands of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation are islands in a sea of human habitation. We need to fully protect all of the Hanford lands so that future generations can both study and enjoy this unique section of the Columbia River.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the future of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Sincerely,

Daniel Pensak
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